

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
NEWS RELEASE**



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**2013 Kuskokwim Bay Salmon Fishery News Release 8  
Districts 4 and 5 to Open to Commercial Salmon Fishing**

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at Bethel for commercial salmon fishermen in the Kuskokwim Area.

**District 4, Quinhagak**

**District 4, Quinhagak, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 17, 2013.**

Preliminary harvest from the July 15 opening, indicate a harvest of 101 king; 1,293 sockeye; 3,442 chum; and 8 coho salmon. Sockeye, king, chum and coho harvests were below average for this date.

As of July 15, total passage through the Kanektok River Weir is 950 king; 90,866 sockeye; and 17,349 chum salmon. King salmon passage is well below average for this time, with sockeye passage being slightly above average. Chum salmon passage is about average for this time of the year.

In District 4 subsistence salmon fishing will be closed 8 hours before, during, and 4 hours after each commercial fishing period. **Subsistence fishermen must have their nets out of the Kanektok and Arolik Rivers and waters of District 4 by 1:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 17. Subsistence fishing will reopen at 1:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 18.**

## District 5, Goodnews Bay

**District 5, Goodnews Bay, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 17, 2013. The open area for this period is reduced.**

A temporary boundary line will be re-instituted, from approximately Big Beluga on the north side of the bay to Little Beluga on the south side of the bay. The boundary line is marked by buoys. District 5 will be open from this line to the western boundary of District 5 on the outside of the North and South spits. The outside boundary is marked by ADF&G regulatory markers on the beaches.

The open area of District 5 is reduced for the conservation of king salmon. ADF&G has determined that catches of king salmon on the Platinum side of the district are lower than catches on the Goodnews side of the district. This reduced area opening is to target abundant sockeye and chum salmon while conserving king salmon. King salmon escapements continue to be poor while total catches and harvest rates have increased over the last two commercial fishing periods. With this information, it is warranted to reduce the open waters to aid in the conservation of king salmon.

Preliminary harvest during the July 15 commercial period was 133 king; 1,904 sockeye; 1,860 chum and 3 coho salmon. The harvest of king and chum salmon was above average for this date, while the harvest of sockeye salmon was slightly below average.

As of July 15, there have been 357 king; 18,767 sockeye; and 5,976 chum salmon passed through the Middle Fork Goodnews River Weir. The king salmon passage continues to be poor and is well below average. Sockeye and chum returns are below average, but indicate a harvestable surplus of these species.

In District 5 subsistence salmon fishing will be closed 8 hours before, during, and 4 hours after each commercial fishing period. **Subsistence fishermen must have their nets out of the Goodnews River and waters of District 5 by 1:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 17. Subsistence fishing will reopen at 1:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 18.**

The local processor anticipates adequate processing capacity for this upcoming commercial period. Fishermen should maintain contact with the buyer to ensure there is adequate processing capacity for their catch.

Fishermen are reminded that they may retain any portion of their catch for personal or subsistence use. Fish retained for personal or subsistence use from a commercial fishery must be reported and recorded in the space provided on an ADF&G fish ticket. Fishermen are also reminded that gillnet gear may not be operated in a manner that obstructs more than one half the width of any waterway. In the intertidal zone this restriction applies at all tide stages. Additionally, gear is restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and 50 fathoms in length in a single shackle.

The Department will be closely monitoring commercial fishing periods to assess fishery performance and anticipates announcing additional commercial fishing periods as warranted. Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the state web site (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), and local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies.

Commercial fishermen are encouraged to consult Fish and Game regulations prior to beginning commercial fishing operations.

For additional information or questions regarding Districts 4 and 5 and Kuskokwim Area fisheries, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in the Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 855-933-2433.

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